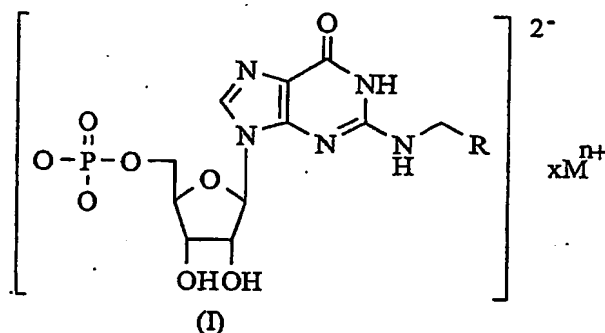


CLAIMS

1. Compounds of general formula (I)



5

wherein R is:

- C₁-C₄ alkyl, optionally substituted with an S-R¹ group, in which R¹ is C₁-C₃ alkyl;
- a phenyl, benzyl, thiophenyl or benzothiophenyl group, optionally substituted with 1-5 substituents, preferably 1 to 3 substituents, which can be the same or different, selected from -NO₂, -CHO, -R¹ or -SR¹ groups, in which R¹ has the meaning defined above;

M is hydrogen, an alkali or alkaline-earth metal;

X is 1 when n is 2 and X is 2 when n is 1

with the exclusion of the compounds of formula (I) wherein R is methyl or propyl.

2. Compounds as claimed in claim 1 wherein R is straight C₁-C₃ alkyl substituted with an S-R¹ group, in which R¹ is methyl.

3. Compounds as claimed in claims 1, wherein R is a phenyl, thiophenyl or benzothiophenyl group, optionally substituted with an -NO₂, methyl or -SR¹ group, in which R¹ is as defined in claim 1.

4. Compounds as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein M is

hydrogen, sodium, potassium, calcium, magnesium or barium.

5. Compounds as claimed in claim 1, wherein M is hydrogen, sodium, potassium, calcium, magnesium or barium and R is:

- straight C₁-C₃ alkyl substituted with a -SCH₃ group;

5 - a phenyl, thiophenyl or benzothiophenyl group, optionally substituted with an -NO₂, methyl or -SCH₃ group.

6. Compounds as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 5 in which M is hydrogen or sodium.

7. A compound as claimed in claim 1 which is selected from:

- 10 N²-(3-methylthio)-propyl guanosine-5'-monophosphate;
N²-(4-methylthiophenyl)-methyl guanosine-5'-monophosphate;
N²-(2-methylthiophenyl)-methyl guanosine-5'-monophosphate;
N²-thiophen-2-yl-methyl guanosine-5'-monophosphate;
N²-thiophen-3-yl-methyl guanosine-5'-monophosphate;
15 N²-(5-methylthiophen-2-yl)-methyl guanosine-5'-monophosphate;
N²-(3-methylthiophen-2-yl)-methyl guanosine-5'-monophosphate;
N²-(3-ethylthiophen-2-yl)-methyl guanosine-5'-monophosphate;
N²-(3-nitrothiophen-2-yl)-methyl guanosine-5'-monophosphate;
N²-(thianaphthen-3-yl)-methyl guanosine-5'-monophosphate
20 and the corresponding sodium salts.

8. A compound as claimed in claim 7 which is N²-(3-Methylthio)-propyl guanosine-5'-monophosphate and the corresponding sodium salt.

9. The use of the compounds as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 8 as flavour enhancers in food preparations.

25 10. The use of the compounds as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 8, alone or in combination with monosodium glutamate and/or with 5'-monophosphate nucleotides, as flavour enhancers in food preparations.

11. The use as claimed in claim 9 or 10 for the preparation of pasta, risottos,

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soups, dried and wet soups, snacks, sauces, salad dressings, ready-made red and white sauces, stock cubes, soup preparations, cooked and uncooked dressed meats, tinned meat, stuffed pasta and preserved vegetables.

12. Flavour enhancers comprising a compound of claims 1 to 8 in
5 admixture with monosodium glutamate and/or with 5'-monophosphate nucleotides.

13. Food preparations containing the compositions of claim 12.